

Acton Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2012

Present: Barbara Tallone, Chair; Charlie Aaronson, Vice Chair; Barbara Willson, Secretary; Ann Corcoran, Treasurer; Sharon Mercurio, Director; Steve Baran; Pat Ellis; Jim Papachristos; Paul Turner; Mike Gowing, Liaison Board of Selectmen; Mary Maxwell, visitor.

Absent: Sally Thompson; Sgt. Ray Grey, Liaison Police Department; Norma Wu, Liaison Friends of the COA.

Call To Order: Barbara Tallone

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Tallone at 3:45 on April 9, 2012 at the Senior Center.

Items Distributed at meeting or available electronically:

Meeting Agenda

Minutes of the March meeting

Director's Report

FY12 COA Budget (through 3rd Quarter)

Review of the Minutes of March 13, 2012

The minutes of the March meeting were accepted as distributed.

Chairman Report: Barb Tallone

Steve Baran and Barbara Willson, as nominating committee, will prepare a slate of officers to be reviewed at the May meeting.

Wellness University was held on March 31 and 23 copies of the Frequently Asked Questions about proposals for a new senior center were given out. Attendance was not as great as previous years.

Treasurer Report: Ann Corcoran (distributed)

Total expenditure for 3rd Quarter was \$5204. Current balance is \$8955.

Director Report: Sharon Mercurio (distributed)

Senior Center:

In addition to attending meetings as head of a department and in preparation for Town Meeting, Sharon spoke at Rotary Club, organized and hosted an Employee Assistance Program in-service and met with the Lowell Regional Transport Authority.

The average number of people entering (by front door) was 115 in March.

Of note among the variety of programs held during the month, 45 attended an evening session on Medicare, more are attending the Friday movies and 70 attended the first session on the Supreme Court. Three programs were oversubscribed, and the building was used by other groups during the evening 3 times.

SCBC:

Following broad discussion of causes for failure of Article 13 at Town Meeting, Sharon described her continuing concern for safety issues at the center. Agreement was reached that a plan for temporary improvements to the building was reached.

MOTION: Jim Papachristos moved that “The COA Board act in a way to help the director make a short term plan to support the safety and welfare of staff and seniors at the senior center.” Ann Corcoran seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A major concern of the staff is the separation of offices and the front entrance. Sharon will identify concerns and present a prioritized list at the next meeting. Mike noted that he could advocate for money from the remaining money in the town budget for renovations needed at the center.

Ideas for a positive outcome at the future Town Meetings included frequent articles in the COA Newsletter, pursuit of private donations, and determination of reasons seniors do not want a new senior center.

Liaison Board of Selectmen: Mike Gowing

Patriots’ Day activities are scheduled for Sunday, April 15 and Monday, April 16.

A Community Innovation Grant of \$185000 has been awarded to centralize dispatching and transportation for Acton, Stow, Maynard and Boxborough and Littleton.

Liaison Friends of COA: Norma Wu

No report

Liaison Acton Police: Sgt Raymond Grey

No report

Liaison Minuteman Senior Services: Charlie Aaronson

The financial distress of elders in the service area is increasing. There is a waiting list for homecare and the Enhanced Community Options Program. The Meals on Wheels budget has been cut by 25%.

Minuteman offices will be at 2 Crosby Drive in Bedford as of June 30, 2012.

All should contact their representatives to the State Legislature this spring to urge an increase in the Minuteman budget for the next year.

Adjournment-Next Meeting: Barbara Tallone

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 P.M... The next meeting will be Monday, May 14 at 3:45 P.M. at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Willson, Secretary